



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

August 9, 1996

Mr. Ronald A. Milner, Director
of Program Management and Integration
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

SUBJECT: OBSERVATION AUDIT OF LAWRENCE BERKELEY NATIONAL LABORATORY

Dear Mr. Milner:

I am transmitting the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Observation Audit Report OA-96-06 of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Office of Quality Assurance, Yucca Mountain Quality Assurance Division (YMQAD) audit of the quality assurance (QA) program of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). This performance-based audit, YM-ARP-96-13, was conducted on July 8-11, 1996, at LBNL offices in Berkeley, California. The audit evaluated the adequacy and effectiveness of the LBNL QA program for selected activities related to Work Breakdown Structure 1.2.3.11.2, "Surface-Based Geophysical Testing." These activities are scheduled to result in a synthesis report at the end of fiscal year 1996 that presents the geologic model of Yucca Mountain and its vicinity as determined from the interpretation and integration of the available geophysical data. The data to be used for generating the model include seismic reflection, gravity, magnetotelluric, vertical seismic profile, magnetic, and data from borehole geophysical logs.

The audit team's overall finding was that the audit showed satisfactory LBNL technical and QA performance with no deficiencies noted.

The NRC staff has determined that YMQAD Audit YM-ARP-96-13 was useful and effective. The audit was organized and conducted in a thorough and professional manner and was generally effective. Audit team members were independent of the activities they audited, they were well qualified in their disciplines, and their assignments and checklist items were adequately described in the audit plan. The NRC staff agrees with the YMQAD audit team's overall finding.

YMQAD should continue to closely monitor implementation of the LBNL QA program to ensure that future QA program implementation is effective. The NRC staff expects to participate in this monitoring as observers and may perform its own independent audits at a later date to assess LBNL implementation of its QA program.

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A written response to this letter is not required. If you have any questions, please call Jack Spraul of my staff on (301) 415-6715.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]

John H. Austin, Chief
Performance Assessment and High-Level
Waste Integration Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Enclosure: As stated

cc: C. Johnson, State of Nevada	S. Zimmerman, State of Nevada
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B. Mettam, Inyo County, CA	J. Meder, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau
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